

HOW TO KICK BUTT ON SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

USE THE CORRECT VERB TENSE (it gets you every time!)

When writing about literature,
stay in present tense.

CORRECTLY CITE YOUR SOURCES.

1. When you quote from a text, be
sure you **REALLY** are quoting from
the text and not just from memory.
2. Correct punctuation is
mandatory.

"THIS QUOTE SHOWS THAT..."

START WITH A TOPIC SENTENCE.

1. Read the question and the text.
2. Respond to the question first!

AVOID REDUNDANT PHRASES

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BEGIN WITH A TOPIC SENTENCE.

- 1. Include the author AND the title.**
- 2. Respond to the question itself.**

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AVOID GOT/GET.

I KNOW your minds are more creative than that.

If not, there's a wonderful thesaurus on Microsoft Word.





**"THIS QUOTE
SHOWS
THAT..."**

Instead of "shows," try intellectual words such as:

- illustrates
- demonstrates
- implies
- conveys
- proves
- expresses
- reveals

...the possibilities are endless!

ACTIVE VOICE RULES!

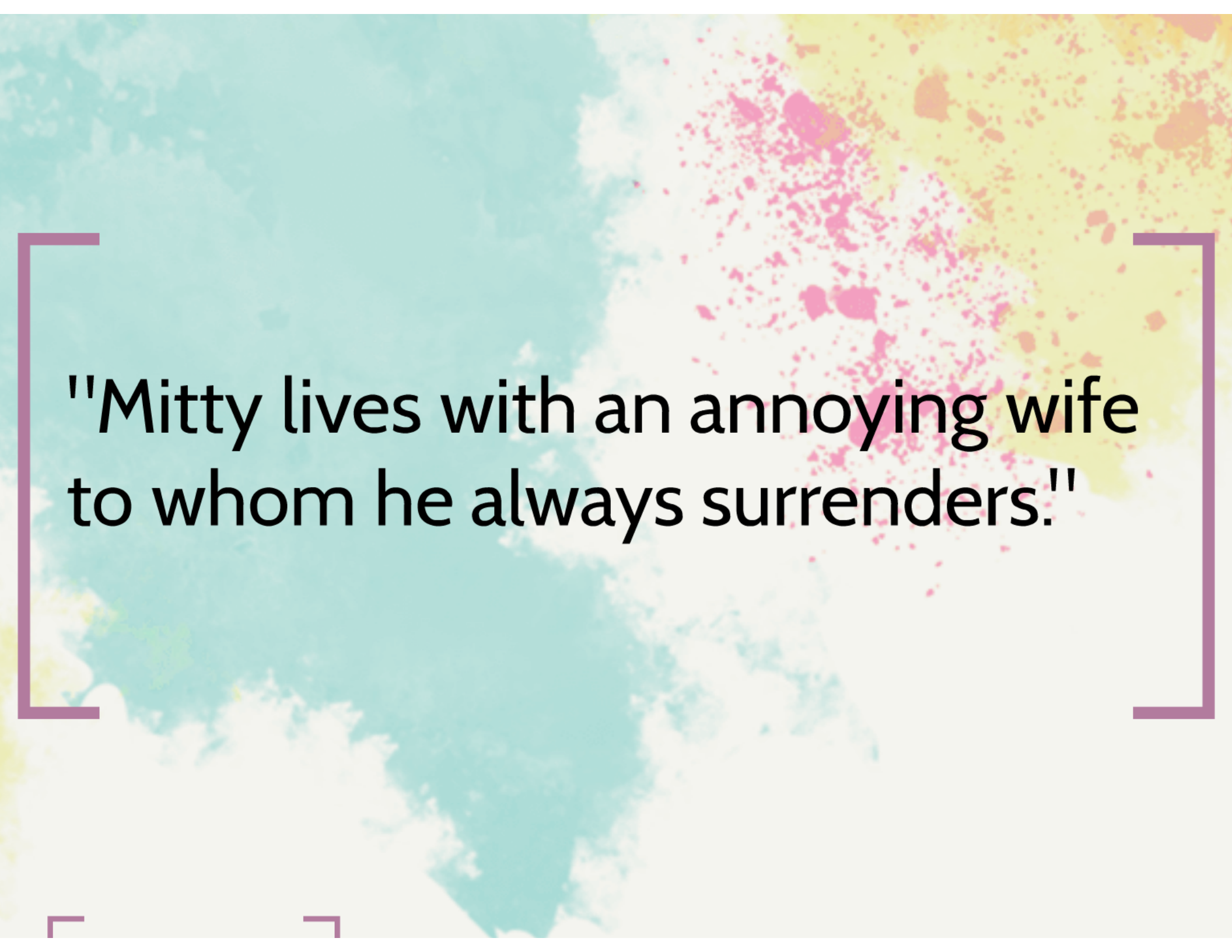
PASSIVE VOICE ...

NOT SO MUCH.

Turn this into active voice:

"In the story, Mitty has an annoying wife who he always surrenders to."

"Mitty lives with an annoying wife to whom he always surrenders."



"Mitty lives with an annoying wife
to whom he always surrenders!"

AVOID 1ST PERSON... LIKE THE PLAGUE.

Rewrite the sentence below.

"I believe that Rainsford changes his views on hunting."



"Rainsford changes his views on hunting!"

"Perhaps Rainsford changes his views on hunting!"

"Rainsford appears to change his views on hunting!"

AVOID 2ND PERSON.

Instead of "you,"
simply substitute "readers."